

Trinity Times

Gather as God's People...

Grow in Faith, Family & Service...

Go into the World as Disciples for Christ...

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Published by Trinity Lutheran Church
Saint Peter, Minnesota
a congregation of the ELCA

Ketchup Campaign

(from Trinity's Stewardship Committee)

At this writing (November 12, 2008) Trinity's spending has surpassed her income by about \$20,000. Trinity has always depended heavily upon increased contributions during the fourth quarter of the year, especially the months of November and December. Our Treasurer has projected that if giving patterns fall into previous patterns we will end our year in deficit operating expense. Our Church Council hopes to defray this deficit with what we are calling a KETCHUP CAMPAIGN (read Catch-Up). During each of the Sunday's in December a dedicated offering envelope will be inserted into Sunday bulletins. We will use these special offerings to wipe away deficit.

This means, of course, that worshippers will be most directly challenged. If you are a member who does worship with regularity, please consider assisting us with a contribution using the envelope in the Sunday bulletin.

We invite you to take note of opportunities to become informed about Trinity's needs as we face difficult economic times together. We are thankful and grateful for all you do to support our growing and vital ministry!!

Nominations Sought for Various Positions

The nominating committee has met in preparation of arriving at a ballot for choosing candidates for members of the Church Council for 2009, Nominating Committee for 2010 candidates, Gustavus Church Relations Committee, Financial Review Committee and Synod Convention Representatives. There are two specific needs for church council. One is treasurer and the other is secretary. There are three people needed who would be a liaison to one of the committees within the church organization. If you are interested in volunteering to be considered for one of the council or other vacancies on the ballot to be voted on at the annual meeting in January, please contact one of the following people: Jerry Conlon, Kris Kelly, Becky Grabow, Joel Darge or Dale Mowbray.

Midweek Advent Services

Our Mid-Week Advent Services will take place each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. on the Wednesdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas (Dec. 3, 10, 17). We will be using the much-loved Holden Evening Prayer at each service. This year's Mid-Week Advent Service theme is "Journey to Bethlehem". We will learn of the significance and meaning behind many of the customs that are a part of our Christmas celebrations: Hanging Greens, the Advent Wreath, and the lighting of the tree. In this very busy time of year, come. Bring yourselves, your families, and your friends. Come, join us for 40 minutes for a time of quiet and reflection about the season we are in.

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THE PASTOR'S CORNER

December 2008

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The Natwick Epistle

“The Tablecloth”

I love stories and the Christmas Season is a time to tell stories. Here's a true story by a pastor by the name of Rob Reid that I heard not so long ago. I'd like to pass it along to you:

A brand-new pastor and his wife were assigned, as his first call, to re-open a church in suburban Brooklyn. They arrived in early October, excited about the opportunities, but when they saw the church they found it very run down and in need of much work. The two of them set a goal to have everything done in the building in time to have the first worship service on Christmas Eve. The two of them worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, cleaning, and on December 31 were ahead of schedule and just about finished.

On December 19, a driving rainstorm hit the Brooklyn area and lasted for over two days. On the 21st of December, the pastor went over to the church and felt his heart sink. The roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster, about 8' x 20', to fall off the wall in the front of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning at about head high. The pastor cleaned up the sodden mess on the floor and, not knowing what else to do, made plans to postpone the Christmas Eve service and headed home.

Driving home, he noticed that a local business was having a flea market sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items on sale was a beautiful, handmade, ivory-colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work. It had fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. The tablecloth was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall of the church. He bought it and headed back to church.

By this time, it had started to snow. An older woman, running from the opposite direction, was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait inside the warm church for the next bus, due in about 45 minutes. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got out a ladder, tools, and supplies needed to hang the tablecloth as a beautiful wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

About then, he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was white as a sheet.

“Pastor,” she asked, “where did you get that tablecloth?”

The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials “EBG” were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of this woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told her of how he had just gotten the tablecloth.

The woman explained that before the war, she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison, and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth, but she made him keep it for the church. He insisted on at least being able to give her a ride to her home. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and happened to be in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

That Christmas Eve saw the church's first worship service in some time. It was wonderful. The church was nearly full of worshippers. The music and spirit of the evening were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare. The pastor wondered who he wasn't leaving. Finally, the man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall, because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when she lived in Austria before the war. How could there be tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came and how he forced his wife to flee for her safety. He was supposed to follow her, but was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home in the 35 years since that time.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. The two of them drove over to Staten Island, to the same house where the pastor had dropped off the woman just three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door, and saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

Holiday Blessings to each of you!

Pastor Eric

Contact the Pastors

Charles Christensen

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TRINITY WOMEN

Bake Sale Thank You

Thank you to each of you who contributed baked goods for the Emma Walsh Benefit. The items you brought completely filled 3 long tables. The variety of choices was impressive and shoppers had a challenge in making selections. By the time the benefit was over every item had been sold. Our contribution to the benefit amounted to \$700.00.

Special thanks go to the women who gave their time to help set up, price and then to sell throughout the afternoon. They made the sale run smoothly, kept the display tables neat and attractive and made it a happy place to be of service.

Sincere thanks to every one of you.

Mission Projects

Trinity women wish to thank all who have contributed in any way to our mission projects. The material and yarn you have given keep our quilters well supplied. We couldn't complete the 8 to 10 finished quilts each session without the contributions you make. And we couldn't do it without the faithful quilters who come to cut squares, lay out tops and bottoms, tie knots or machine stitch to finish the edges. 36 finished quilts have been boxed and are ready to be taken to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul. We thank the drivers who have delivered the boxes for us throughout the years. That is a great help to us.

The layette project will be completed in December and they will be sent to LWR with the quilts. We will publish the number sent in the next Trinity Times. Many thanks to all who provided items or money for the layettes. A new mission project will be announced at the beginning of the year for 2009.

Bandage rolls have been made for Global Health Ministries with more to be completed. We continue to collect cancelled stamps, Campbell soup labels, and unused cell phones for recycling.

Think Ahead to 2011

If you were even thinking that you might want to attend the next Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering you can save money by pre-registering before December 31, 2008! The gathering will be July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington. The pre-registration special rate is \$240, which we expect to go up prior to the actual registration date. This fee is not refundable, but it is fully transferable.

Contact Kay Mowbray, 934-3170, for more information.

These Gatherings are great events! Give it some prayerful thought.

Scandinavian Brunch

All women of Trinity are invited to come to our Scandinavian Christmas Brunch on Saturday, December 13th at 9:30 a.m. St. Lucia, from Gustavus, will be with us to share the story of Lucia. Two authors of children's books will read their newest Christmas books to us. Margie Nelsen, author, and Karen Annexsted, illustrator, both members of Trinity, have published a second book that they will share with us. Their book, along with others, will be available for sale after the brunch. The program will include special music by Adrian Lo and group singing of Christmas Carols.

The installation of 2009 coordinating board members will take place and the outgoing board members will be recognized for their service.

The cost of the brunch is \$7.00 and a free will offering will be received for the work of ELCA women locally and churchwide. Tickets are available between services or by calling the church office.

Come! Bring a friend. Take the time to treat yourself to the spirit of Christmas.

Dates to Remember

December 1st
Quilting and Potluck lunch (9:30—2:00)

December 2nd
WELCA Coordinating board meeting (7:00)

December 7th
Adult forum—hear where our quilts are being used (9:30)

December 13th
Scandinavian brunch (9:30)

December 14th
Card and Napkin sales

December 31st
Deadline for pre-registration for 2011 Gathering

YOUTH & FAMILY

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Live the Life: 7-9th Grades

The Trinity Youth Group for 7th-9th grades will meet on Sunday December 7th. BRING YOUR FRIENDS! This group meets on the 1st Sunday of the month in the Youth Room at Trinity from 6:30p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Join us for some fun!

Junior High GRAPPLE : 7-9th Grades

Sunday mornings in the conference room by Erika's office, you can hear a group of rowdy kids in grades 7-9 talking, wrestling, grappling with issues of faith! The current discussion is a 3 week session: GOT FRIENDS? Join us from 9:30-10:30 every Sunday for some fun! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Senior High Youth Group O2 (Oxygen) "Everybody needs it!"

Do you know someone in 10-12th grade? Invite them to join us for our WEEKLY senior high youth group which meets every Wednesday evening in the Youth Room at Trinity. We understand that your schedules are busy and that sometimes you have tons of homework, but come when you can! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!! If you have any questions, please contact Erika and checkout our group on FACEBOOK!

Calendar Notes

Calendar Notes:

- No Fellowship Dinner, Confirmation, or Sr High Youth Group on Wednesday, December 24th or 31st
- No GRAPPLE on Sunday, December 21st or 28th

All due to the Christmas break...Merry Christmas...
Peace on Earth!

Don't miss the Annual Ski Trip!

Winter Retreat: Jan 16-18, 2009

Grab the information at the Youth & Family Table

The Annual Ski Trip to Giant's Ridge in Biwabik, MN has been set for Jan 16-18, 2009. Space is limited so sign up early! Grab a flyer and registration sheet at the Youth & Family Table in the Narthex. We really need parental volunteers to help with transportation and some of the nuts and bolts! Willing to help? Or have questions? See Erika or Pastor Eric.

St. Lucia Bake Sale at Trinity

Thursday, December 11th, 9am - 5pm

Get your Holiday Cookies & Baked Goods!

This is a fundraiser for J3 - JESUS.JUSTICE.JAZZ the 2009 ELCA National Youth Gathering is in New Orleans, Louisiana. Trinity, First, and Scandian Grove have teamed up to make our amazing J3 group. Please consider supporting our young people as they prepare for this summer trip! Come and buy some wonderful homemade holiday treats!

3rd Annual Youth Casino Night Renamed: *Masquerade Christmas Lock-in:* *Show Your True Colors*

December 19th, 7-12 Grades **Bring your friends!!**

Times:

7-8 Grades: 8-Midnight

9-12 Grade 8pm - Saturday, 9am!!

Cost: \$5 - 7-8 Grades • \$10 9-12 Grade

If you wear a "color" costume, its \$4 - 7-8 Grades • \$8 - 9-12 Grade

Colors are: 7th-White, 8th-Blue, 9th-Red, 10th-Yellow, 11th-Green, 12th-Purple, Youth Council will be wearing Black!

Look for your invitation in the mail, and flyers throughout the church for more info! Trinity's Youth Council is hosting this event, but we need lots of adult leaders to volunteer and help as well! Please call Erika if you are able to help.

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Children's Christmas Program

This year's Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 4:30pm. There will be a potluck supper following the program in the Gustafson Room. The 3 and 4 year olds and Kindergartners will sing at the 10:45am service that morning and are welcome to come back and sing at the program as well.

Rehearsal for all Sunday School children will be held on Saturday, December 13th at 8:30am. Meet in the Sanctuary.

Advent – Christmas Schedule

Mark your calendars: Wednesday Advent Services will begin on Wednesday, December 3rd, 7 p.m. Hanging of the Greens is on the calendar for the 3rd at 5:00 p.m., come help decorate, have supper and worship!

December 3rd

5:00pm Hanging of the Greens
5:15pm Fellowship Supper
7:00pm Advent Worship

December 10th

5:15pm Fellowship Supper
7:00pm Advent Worship

December 17th

5:15pm Fellowship Supper
7:00pm Advent Worship

December 24th

1:30pm Christmas Eve Communion Worship
3:30pm Christmas Eve Worship
5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship
11:00pm Christmas Eve Communion Worship

Hanging of the Greens

We always need much assistance for the "Hanging of the Greens" and decorating of our church home for the Advent-Christmas season. We'll be decorating before the first Advent Service on Wednesday, December 3rd. Hanging of the Greens begins at 5pm and worship is at 7pm. We'll be serving the usual meal for Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper starting at 5:15pm. Come, decorate, eat and worship! It will be a fun night for the whole family!

Christmas Flower Garden

A flower garden will grace the altar area of Trinity for Christmas Eve worship. Poinsettias and other appropriate plants may be brought to the church by 3:00pm on Tuesday, December 23rd. Information for listings in memory of or in honor of someone should be turned into the church office by Wednesday, December 17th. You may pick up your plants after the 11pm service on Christmas Eve or on Friday, December 26th.

Trinity Christmas Recital

Sunday, December 7, 2008 at 2:00pm

Please join us as the musical talents of Trinity are showcased in a delightful Christmas Recital!

If you cannot join us as a participant, please join us as audience members. Funds raised at the recital will be used to support the Trinity Youth and Family Program. Donations will be collected at the door.

Wednesday Night Supper

Our financial goal for the Fellowship Suppers is to simply "break even". Unfortunately, because of increasing food costs and our desire to continuing serving good quality meals we believe people will enjoy, we will be raising our prices in December. We look forward to continuing to provide an opportunity for people to gather together around the table for a meal, conversation, and good fellowship. The Wednesday Fellowship suppers take place each Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 6:30pm in the Gustafson Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5/person with a maximum of \$17/family.

December 3rd Ham, Baked Potatoes, Corn, Salad, Bread, Drink, Dessert

December 10th Chicken Breast / Drumsticks, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetable Medley, Salad, Bread, Drink, Dessert

December 17th Scalloped Potatoes with Ham, Green Beans, Salad, Bread, Drink, Dessert

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Cinnamon Roll Sundays!

The J3 youth of Trinity (those going to the Jesus-Justice-Jazz National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer) are excited to offer freshly baked, hot, gooey cinnamon rolls during fellowship hour on the **FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!**

The cost is just \$1 per roll which includes juice or coffee. You can even place an order to take home or to the office! Please call Beau Bachman (931-2139) or Randy Ziebarth (931-6706) by the Friday before each Cinnamon Roll Sunday to place your pre-order.

Please join the J3 youth for CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY beginning in December, and thank you for your support!

Check out the church library

Stop in and see what's new in the church library! Here's a few highlights:

Bold Spirit by Linda Lawrence Hunt. A compelling story of one woman's walk across America to save the family farm is a wondrously powerful saga set in 1896. Biography of Helga Estby.

A Sister's Test by Wanda Brunstetter and **The Parting** by Beverly Lewis are two new donations to the library. Both books are Amish fiction.

The Shack by William Paul Young. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant The Shack wrestles with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain? The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

How Starbucks Saved My Life by Michael Gates Gill. The national bestselling rags-to-riches story of an advertising executive who had it all, then lost it all –and was finally redeemed by his new job, and his twenty-eight-old boss, at Starbucks.

Consider Giving a "Fair" Gift to Loved Ones this Holiday Season

By "Fair", we mean "Fair Trade" items that we have at our Fair Trade Kiosk at church. Many of you have discovered and enjoyed the Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, and other items that are available. Now you have a chance to share a it with family or friends by purchasing an item and giving it as a gift.

If you've never checked out the Fair Trade display in the narthex, then please to so! By choosing to buy fair trade products, we ensure that farmers in developing countries earn enough income to adequately feed and care for their families and communities. What a great way to help people out while enjoying the fruit of their labors!

Catalogs for Holiday Shopping in Honor or Memory of Loved Ones

For your holiday shopping, we have received catalogs from Lutheran World Relief and Heifer International. Make your gifts a gift of sharing with others around the world.

The catalogs are available on the table outside the Gustafson Fellowship Hall. You may borrow one for a week or so, but kindly return them for others to use.

Sunday School Update

The 2008 Sunday School Christmas Program "Twas the Night Before Christmas" will take place on Sunday, December 14th at 4:30pm. There will be a potluck supper following the program in the Gustafson Room. All are welcome! Don't forget to bring a dish to pass.

Practice for the Christmas Program will take place on Saturday, December 13th at 8:30am. The practice will be for all Sunday school children ages 3 year olds-6th grade. Meet in the sanctuary at 8:30.

There will be no Sunday school on December 21st and 28th. Sunday school will begin again on January 4th, 2009. We will be having an Epiphany celebration. Please join us!

Amazing Greys

The Amazing Greys will not meet in December. Come back roaring for January 13, 2009!

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit all items for the January newsletter no later than December 12th.

All items are preferred in an **electronic format** and can be emailed to editor@trinitystpeter.org.

Please Welcome Our Newest Members

Misti Biehn, Jordan & Alexandra

Misti, Jordan and Alexandra are coming to Trinity from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Cleveland. Misti is a Program Manager at Scholarship America. In her spare time she enjoys reading and talking with friends. Jordan is 12 years old, in the 7th grade and in our confirmation program. Alexandra is a 9 year old in the 4th grade.

Nathaniel & Kristie Boyer & Avery

The Boyer family is coming to Trinity from First Lutheran Church in Le Sueur. Nat is a 6th grade teacher in the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton schools and Kristie is a 5th grade teacher in the St. Peter school system. Avery is 2-1/2 years old and in December will have a new brother or sister. In their spare time they enjoy athletics, reading, and spending time with family.

Reverend Robert & Sandi Broeder

Bob is a retired clergyman of the United Church of Christ. He and Sandi live in Le Sueur where Sandi is a Pharmacy Tech at Corner Drug. In her free time she enjoys reading, walking and caring for their pets. Bob serves as chaplain for the Le Sueur Police Department, does community and government service and in his free time likes to golf.

Brian & Jan Kuiper, Kelsey & Katy

The Kuiper family join us from First Lutheran Church. Brian is a loan officer at Nicollet County Bank and Jan is a finance manager of The Creative Company. Kelsey and Katy are students at St. Peter High School. Kelsey is 17 and a senior; Katy is 15 and a freshman. Kelsey went on the Mission Trip to Chicago and is helping getting "The Kitchen" started. Way to go, Kelsey! This family enjoys sports, music and family time together. Brian is already a part of our Praise Team Band.

Paul & Avis McDaniel

Paul and Avis are the parents of our former choir director (Erin McDaniel Damberger) and Trinity member Emily, along with Kris, Eva and Noah Kracht. They have "retired" here from Valley City, North Dakota. Prior to their move, Paul taught 4th grade and Avis taught elementary music. Paul is now a substitute teacher and Avis does day care for their grandchildren. They list their interests as music, travel and family.

Jerret & Janet Thompson, Johanna & Jordan

Jerret is originally from Waterville and Janet from St. Clair. They chose to live in St. Peter because of the quality school system. Jerret owns and operates River Valley Concrete Company and Janet is a dispatcher for the St. Peter Police Department. Johanna is 11 and in the 6th grade. She is a Girl Scout and enjoys bowling and scrap booking. Jaden is a busy 3 year old. Janet is a co-leader for the Girl Scouts and enjoys scrap booking. Jerret enjoys hunting and is a Vikings fan.

TRINITY NEWS

Kari Reichel, Erin, Brandon, Taylor & Jordan

The Reichel family comes to us from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Cleveland. Kari is a daycare provider and loves it. Her interests include music and computers. Four children make up this busy household. Erin is 13 and in the 8th grade; Brandon is 11 and in the 6th grade; Taylor is a 10 year old fifth grader and Jordan is 6 and in the 1st grade.

Joshua & Julia Wentz & Miles

Josh and Julia were married at Trinity two years ago and are now joining the congregation as a family of three. Miles Loren was born two weeks ago. Congratulations to the new mom and dad! Josh grew up in Hebron, North Dakota and Julia in St. Clair, Minnesota. He is the assistant manager of the meat department at EconoFoods and Julia works for the City of St. Peter as an administrative assistant. Josh enjoys hunting, playing softball and cheering for the Dallas Cowboys. Julia enjoys baking, cooking and spending time with family.

A warm welcome to all of you!

Holiday Vouchers

The St. Peter Area Foodshelf and the St. Peter Area Ministerial Association will again be providing groceries to needy families in our community over the holiday season. Last year, vouchers were provided for over 1,300 adults and children. Needy persons are identified by churches and public agencies. This information is kept in the strictest confidence.

Vouchers are distributed between November 15 and December 1 and are issued according to family size and age distribution. Should you be aware of someone in need, please contact Audrey in the Church Office with this information.

Because of increasing need, the Ministerial Association has a goal of \$5,000. Last year the Food shelf more than matched this amount. We hope to raise \$1,500 at Trinity to put toward people in need.

Please make out a check to Trinity clearly marked for Holiday Baskets and leave it in the offering or stop by our Church Office to leave a contribution. Thank you for your generosity. We are blessed to be a blessing!

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Christmas Gifts

In this season of gift giving to family, friends and those less fortunate, we hope you will also consider your gift to Trinity. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work. You can use our electronic giving option for both regular offerings and one-time gifts. To help us achieve a more consistent level of funding, we encourage using electronic giving for regular offerings. Please contact the church office at 934-4786 for details.

Financial Update

As of 11/18/08:

Budget Income	\$380,076
Budget Expense	<u>-\$396,954</u>
Net Deficit	(\$16,878)

Budget Forecast

Jan-Oct Offering Income	\$330,600
Plus Other Budget Income	<u>\$21,300</u>
Total Budget Income to Date	\$351,900

Total Budget Income to Date	\$351,900
If contributions average the same as the last 3 years for the balance of 2008	<u>\$85,300</u>
Total Estimated Income	\$437,200

Estimated Income	\$437,200
Estimated Expenses	<u>(\$449,300)</u>
Estimated Shortage	(\$12,100)

Adult Education Schedule

At 9:30am on Sunday mornings in the fireplace area of the Gustafson room. We will have one presentation in December.

December 7th Rev. Dan Buendorf will be presenting first hand experiences with LWR

December 14th Paul & Avis McDaniel will be presenting on Advent Christmas Hymns

Fellowship Hour Christmas Goodies Potluck

On the first Sunday of Christmas, December 28th, we will be hosting our first "Fellowship Hour Christmas Goodies Potluck". Bring some of your not-yet-consumed Christmas goodies to place out for our Fellowship time between services. It should be fun to sample some of what each household "traditionally" makes for their own family celebrations.

Leaders Needed for 2009 Block Party

Trinity is looking for energetic leaders to assist in planning and implementing a Block Party in August of 2009! This event provides us an opportunity for community outreach, fund raising, fellowship in an intergenerational environment, and enjoyment of life and our congregation. It happens in our parking lot. Our congregational leadership feels this event has great potential to grow in many ways. In an effort to get started early on planning, we are looking for persons willing to serve on the Steering Committee and on the following sub-committees: children's focus, food focus, adult and teens focus, publicity focus. Would you be willing to help your parish in one of these areas of leadership? Much has been learned from the past two years; we'd like to make this event an even greater one for all. If you are willing, please call the church office and leave your name or just stop in and visit about it!!

Please Note. . .

Trinity does offer grape juice, in addition to the wine, at communion for those wishing to have this option. The grape juice is located in the center ring, or you can just ask for grape juice.

Daily Readings

Trinity's traditional worship schedule is Sundays at 8:00am and 9:30am. The 10:45am service is intended to be a more contemporary service.

NOTE: the daily lectionary is found in ELW starting on page 1121. The first three of the week's readings reflect the previous Sunday; the last three prepare us for next Sunday!

December 7th

Holy Communion at all services

Monday	Acts 2:37-42
Tuesday	Acts 11:1-18
Wednesday	Luke 1:5-17
Thursday	Philippians 3:7-11
Friday	Philippians 3:12-16
Saturday	Matthew 21:28-32

December 14th

Monday	Ephesians 6:10-17
Tuesday	Acts 3:17-4:4
Wednesday	Mark 9:9-13
Thursday	Hebrews 1:1-4
Friday	Hebrews 1:5-14
Saturday	John 7:40-52

December 21st

Holy Communion at all services

Monday	Romans 10:5-13
Tuesday	Romans 13:11-14
Friday	Acts 6:8-15, 7:51-60
Saturday	1 John 1:1-9

December 28th

Monday	Matthew 12:46-50
Tuesday	2 Peter 3:8-13
Wednesday	John 8:12-19
Friday	James 3:13-18
Saturday	James 4:1-10

TRINITY NEWS

Attention Holiday Shoppers!

With rising costs all around, try shopping online this holiday season. It's easy once you've begun using GoodSearch. GoodSearch.com is a combination Yahoo!-powered search engine with an online shopping mall – "GoodShop".

Try it. We think you'll like it! Simply go to GoodSearch.com and enter: "Trinity Lutheran Church – St Peter" in the "Who Do You GoodSearch For?" box that you will see in the middle of the page. Or, you can select "Trinity Lutheran Church – St Peter" by scrolling through a drop-down menu in that same box. Now, you're ready to use GoodSearch as your internet search engine.

Consider setting GoodSearch as your "home page". Every search earns \$0.01 for Trinity; AND, if you use the online mall to shop, merchants such as Best Buy, eBay, Target, Walmart, and Barnes and Noble and HUNDREDS of others donate anywhere from .5 – 37.5% of their profits from the sale to Trinity! This is their way of helping out churches and other non-profit organizations. So, if you're planning on shopping... take advantage of it!

GoodSearch.com Earnings

Trinity has earned the below amounts through the congregation's use of the GoodSearch.com search engine and through GoodShop.com's online shopping portal.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Searches</u>	<u>Amount Raised</u>
January	128	\$1.96
February	1,565	\$30.34
March	1,177	\$14.39
April	1,220	\$17.76
May	974	\$12.32
June	809	\$10.07
July	622	\$7.33
August	681	\$28.16
September	770	\$11.14
October	800	\$9.43
Total	8,768	\$143.10

The Amount Raised column includes monies received from the online shopping portal.

Thank you for your continued use of the GoodSearch.com portal and for supporting Trinity's ministries!

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Energy Assistance Program

Many households are worried about the increasing costs to heat their homes. They may have to choose between paying their winter heating bills and purchasing necessities such as housing, food or prescription medications. The Energy Assistance Program is designed to help income eligible households pay their energy bills. Eligible households will have their grant money sent directly to their energy vendor.

Households may request an application by calling Minnesota Valley Action Council at 800-767-7139 or the Nicollet County MVAC office at 934-5224.

Winter Energy Saving Tips

Saving energy in your home doesn't require a major investment of money or even your time. These tips will cost you little or nothing and could reduce your annual energy bill by 25% or more!

- Turn down the thermostat. Reduce the temp from 70 to 65 degrees while you are home. Turn it down to 60 or 55 degrees while you're away or sleeping.
- Close off an unused room entirely
- Lock windows. It tightens the seal to stop heat leaks.
- Change furnace filter regularly
- If you have a natural gas furnace, check the pilot light regularly. It should be a steady blue flame.
- Install compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's). They use dramatically less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last much longer.
- Turn off or unplug computers, televisions and other electronic devices when you are not using them or away for a few days.
- Set ceiling fans to run clockwise in the winter. This will draw air up and keep warm air circulating.
- Turn up the temperature a few degrees in your refrigerator and save quite a few dollars.
- Wash only full loads of laundry in cold water.
- Set temperature on water heater to 115-120 degrees.

Christmas at the Cox House

A Cox House Christmas will be celebrated in Victorian style the first two weekends in December, from 1:00-4:00pm on Saturday, December 6, Sunday, December 7, Saturday, December 13 and Sunday December 14. Guests may tour the house and sing carols around the piano or old reed organ and hear special music by local musicians. Spiced cider and homemade cookies will be served in the kitchen. All are welcome!

2008 Santa Anonymous

This year the Nicollet County Santa Anonymous is celebrating 33 years of providing toys and gifts to families for Christmas. Making the holidays special for children is the primary goal. As in previous years, we face the challenge of raising the funds necessary and meeting increasing demand for the program. In 2007, over 325 children received Christmas gifts through the program.

It is very rewarding to see the support received in past years and hope to continue this year and in the future from the community. The appreciation and support we receive from the program participants is equally gratifying.

This year the toy shop will be in the Senior Center at the St. Peter Community Center. The shop will be open for patrons on Sunday, December 7th from 2:30-7:00pm. As in previous years, participants must provide proof of residency in Nicollet County such as a driver's license or recent utility bill with their address. In addition, we ask that participants prove their children actually exist, such as health cards, report cards, etc. Or if new to the area, a letter from the pastor of their church or referral from a social service agency is sufficient.

Unwrapped gifts may be dropped off at the St. Peter Police Department, Nicollet County Bank or Marie Dranttel, CPA until December 6th.

If you are unable to drop off your donations, arrangements can be made for a pickup. In addition, used items in clean working condition will be accepted. Monetary donations can be mailed to Santa Anonymous, c/o Nicollet County Bank, PO Box 420, St. Peter, MN 56082.

In addition to toys and cash donations, volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you are willing, we can keep you busy!

Anyone needing additional information may contact Marie at 507-934-2670 or Jean at 507-931-3310.

Marriage Encounter

Give each other the best Christmas gift possible! Attend the December 13-14 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at the Dakota Ridge Hotel on 35E and Yankee Doodle in Eagan. Visit www.marriages.org for a listing if retreats or call 651-454-3238.

Lutefisk Dinner

Come for a traditional Norwegian dinner and worship service at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN on Sunday, December 7th from 4:00-6:30pm. Worship is at 4:00pm. Meal includes lutefisk, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, glorified rice, rome grot, lefse, flatbread, rosettes, milk and coffee. Adults \$13.00, children ages 5-12 \$6.00.

Breakfast with Santa

Little Saints Preschool of St. Peter is holding its 27th annual "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 13th, 7:30-11:00am, at the Church of St. Peter Social Hall located at 1801 West Broadway in St. Peter. Join us for a morning full of holiday fun, including a pancake breakfast, face painting, silent auction, and of course, meeting Santa!

Advanced tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3-10. Tickets at the door are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Children two and under are free. Each child receives a small gift from Santa's workshop Don't forget to bring your camera and take pictures with Santa.

To purchase tickets in advance contact Little Saints Preschool at 507-931-4314.

Snuggie and the Christmas Stockings Book Signing

Margie Nelsen (author) and Karen Annexstad (illustrator) will be signing their newest book, Snuggie and the Christmas Stockings, on Thursday, December 11th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and again from 1:00 pm. - 3:00 p.m at the Book Mark, Gustavus Adolphus bookstore. Please join them for some conversation and perhaps take care of some of your Christmas shopping at the same time. Call 507-933-6017 or email jdschult@gac.edu for more information.

Habitat for Humanity

Construction Trailer Needed:

The St. Peter Chapter of Habitat for Humanity is in need of a construction trailer for storage of tools and building equipment. This trailer would allow us to keep tools at the current building site, and then move these materials to the next location when the house is completed. We will need to padlock the trailer and it should be a size that can be towed by a small pickup truck. Do you know of a trailer for sale or for donation? Please call Don Glimsdal, 931-5803, with leads on trailers or for more information.

Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers are needed for finish work on our current house in the Washington Terrace subdivision. Painting and staining are two of the current tasks. Volunteers are needed on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8:15am until 4:00pm. Workers can come for any length of time during those hours. For more information on volunteering at the house, please call our volunteer coordinator, Eileen Watson, at (507) 420-7119 or 934-5886.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gift Suggestions for Regional Treatment Center

Toiletries

(Plastic Containers Only)

Bath Powder
Cologne/Shaving Lotion
Deodorant
Hand Lotion
Shampoo
Toothpaste/Toothbrush
Hairbrush/Comb

Household

(For those living on their own)

Bedding/Pillows
Bath/Kitchen Towels
Quilts/Blankets
Kitchen Utensils

Men's & Women's Clothing

(Large sizes are appreciated)

T-Shirts
Underwear/Jockey Shorts
Pajamas/Bathrobes
Jeans
Jackets/Gloves/Mittens
Hats/Scarves
Sweatshirt/Sweatpants
Flannel Shirts
Tennis shoes/Slippers

Cash or gifts can be mailed to:

SPRTC Volunteer Office
100 Freeman Drive
St. Peter, MN 56082

If you plan to bring gifts directly to the SPRTC, please call ahead to make arrangements for your arrival: (507) 931-7250.

Notice

If you would like a community announcement to appear in the monthly newsletter, please turn your items into the church office by December 12th.

Announcements will be published on a space-available basis.

IN HIS SERVICE

December 2008

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www.trinitystpeter.org

Ushers and Greeters

December 7th

8:00am Marvel Prafke; Delores Swenson;
Leona Miller; Willis Lindquist
9:30am Marianne Keswani; Pat & Tami
Klubben; Curt Loken
10:45am ReVae Hofferbert; Mary & Alex
Natwick; Heidi & Emily Seppelt

December 14th

8:00am Marvel Prafke; Delores Swenson;
Dee Hahn; Willis Lindquist
9:30am Lauren & Kellie Satrom; Steve &
Natasha Pettis
10:45am ReVae Hofferbert; Heidi & Emily
Seppelt; Sandi Francis

December 21st

8:00am Willis Lindquist; Leona Miller;
Rob & Janice Meyer
9:30am Marianne Keswani; Richard &
Nancy Beran; Karen Boesch
10:45am Sandi Francis;
Brent Lori, Katie & Kelly Hanson

December 24th

1:30pm Dee Hahn; Tom & Sue Kretschmer
3:30pm Jim & Nancy Kruger; JoAnn
Pedersen; Dolores Holteen
5:30pm Bruce & Lynn Davey
11:00pm Ingrid Gerlach; Diane Gerlach;
Julie Gault

December 28th

8:00am Leona Miller; Stan & Sue Ziebarth;
Randy Ziebarth
9:30am Karen Boesch; Joel & Carolyn
Darge; John Rostad
10:45am Marlene Lindemeier;
Bachman Family

Lay Readers

December 7th

8:00am Carl Aanonsen
9:30am Kris Kelly

December 14th

8:00am Janet Brown
9:30am Kirk Beyer

December 21st

8:00am Jan Swanson
9:30am Sandi Minter

December 28th

8:00am Barbara Simpson
9:30am Jim Vavreck

Altar Care

December 7th Ingrid Gerlach; Ann Maland
December 21st Sandy Pettis; Natasha Pettis

Video Camera

December 7th Steve Pettis
December 14th Pat Klubben
December 21st Pat Klubben
December 28th Nancy Hanson

Council Assistants

10:45am Scott Moore

Fellowship Hosts

December 7th Ron & Jan Davis
December 14th Pat & Tami Klubben
December 21st Tim & Bev Kraft
December 28th Rob & Janice Meyer

All Trinity members share in food preparation and serving duties for funerals and other church events throughout the year. The membership has been divided into 13 groups with designated coordinators for each month. This allows one group to have a month off each year. Groups move up one month each year as well, so that you are not serving in the same month each year. This list is also used to secure ushers. When your assistance is needed, a coordinator will contact you.

December 2008

Food Coordinators:

Leona Miller	931-3639
Delores Hahn	934-3558

Name

Andree, RJ & Miriam
 Davis, Ron & Jan
 Ebbenga, Brian & Lisa
 Eckberg, Richard & Wanda
 Francis, Sandi
 Hahn, Delores
 Henrichs, Curt & Karla
 Hofferbert, RaVae
 Keswani, Marianne
 Klubben, Pat & Tami
 Kraft, Tim & Bev
 Kretschmer, Tom & Sue
 Krugerud, Arlen/Manser, Roberta
 Lindquist, Stan
 Lindquist, Willis
 Loken, Curt & Leona
 McIntyre, Jeff
 McIntyre, Cathy
 Meyer, Rob & Janice
 Miller, Leona
 Munsterman, Gene & Sue
 Natwick, Mary
 Pettis, Steve & Natasha
 Prafke, Marvel
 Rodning, Paul & Gayla
 Satrom, Lauren & Kellie
 Schlueter, Ron & Deann,
 Seppelt, Troy & Heidi
 Sisler, Curtis & Leatta
 Sowder, Monte & Juli
 Sundin, Duane & Ruth
 Swenson, Delores
 Wilmes, Todd & Shayne
 Wood, Melody
 Zabel, Steven & Lori
 Ziebarth, Stan & Sue

SERVICE LIST

January 2009

Food Coordinators:

Corey & Lisa Hofferbert	934-6860
Steve & Kathy Herberg	931-6363

Usher/Greeter Coordinator:

Tim Kennedy/Mary Snyder	934-2642
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Name

Betz, Dale & Gail
 Biehn, Tim & Deanna
 Bishop, Shirley
 Buboltz, Dawn
 Cole, Heide
 Darge, Joel & Carolyn
 Davis, Bruce & Denice
 Erickson, Vinnie
 Estenson, Paul & Julie
 Gault, Sam & Julie
 Glimsdal, Don & Jan
 Guth, Bradley
 Guth, Brian
 Hanson, Keith & Carmen
 Herberg, Steve & Kathy
 Higginbotham, Kris
 Hofferbert, Corey & Lisa
 Jacobson, Ray & Liz
 Jacobson, Ted
 Kahlow, Bonnie
 Kennedy, Tim & Snyder, Mary
 Miller, Dick & Mary Lou
 Miller, Lenny & Diana
 Mogensen, Mary
 Mulvehill, Roberta
 Noyd, Rich & Judy
 Olson, Kip & Diane
 Pedersen, Terry
 Prafke, Todd & Ytve
 Reicks, Darwin & Shelly
 Rostad, John & Kim
 Salzwedel, Chad & Kristi
 Seitzer, Gerald & Carol
 Smesmo, Vickie
 Snow, Keith & Jo
 Thompson, Bernadine
 Tuma Curt & Liz
 Weber, Rick & Barb
 Wright, Robert

DECEMBER CALENDAR

View the calendar online at
[www.trinitystpeter.org!](http://www.trinitystpeter.org)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30 Mission Quilting 5:30 "The Kitchen" Free Meal 7:00 Eunique Quilting 8:00 AA (Closed)	2 5:30 Executive Committee 7:00 Trinity Women Board Mtg	3 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Hanging of Greens 5:15 Fellowship Supper 6:15 Confirmation 6:15 Trinity Choir 7:00 Advent Worship 7:45 Praise Bells 8:00 Praise Band 8:00 Sr. High Youth Grp	4 2:00 Text Study for Pastors 5:00 AI-Anon 5:30 Truancy Circle 7:00 Trinity Women Book Club 8:00 AA (Open)	5 1:30 Martha Circle	6 1:00 Christmas Recital Practice
7 8:00 Communion Worship 8:45 JOY! 9:00 Fellowship (Cinnamon Rolls) 9:30 Communion Worship 9:30 Education Hour 9:30 Celebration Singers 10:45 Communion Worship 2:00 Trinity Christmas Recital 6:30 Faith 4 Life 6:30 Jr. High Youth Group 7:00 AA (Closed)	8 5:30 "The Kitchen" Free Meal 6:00 Red Hats 8:00 AA (Closed)	9 6:00 Committee Mtgs 7:00 Council Mtg	10 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 5:15 Fellowship Supper 6:15 Confirmation 6:15 Trinity Choir 7:00 Advent Worship 7:45 Praise Bells 8:00 Praise Band 8:00 Sr. High Youth Grp	11 9:00 JB Bake Sale Fundraiser 2:00 Text Study for Pastors 5:00 AI-Anon 8:00 AA (Open)	12 Newsletter Deadline	13 8:30 Christmas Program Practice 9:00 Babysitter Training 10:00 WELCA Brunch
14 8:00 Worship 8:45 JOY! 9:00 Fellowship 9:30 Worship 9:30 Education Hour 9:30 Celebration Singers 10:45 Worship 4:30 SS Christmas Program 7:00 AA (Closed)	15 9:30 Rebecca Circle 3:30 Hope Circle 5:30 "The Kitchen" Free Meal 8:00 AA (Closed)	16	17 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:15 Confirmation 6:15 Trinity Choir 7:00 Advent Worship 7:45 Praise Bells 8:00 Praise Band 8:00 Sr. High Youth Grp	18 2:00 Text Study for Pastors 5:00 AI-Anon 5:30 Truancy Circle 8:00 AA (Open)	19 8:00 Youth Christmas Party	20
21 8:00 Communion Worship 8:45 JOY! 9:00 Fellowship 9:30 Communion Worship 9:30 Education Hour 10:45 Communion Worship 6:30 Faith 4 Life 7:00 AA (Closed)	22 5:30 "The Kitchen" Free Meal 8:00 AA (Closed)	23	24 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 1:30 Communion Worship 3:30 Worship 5:30 Worship 11:00 Communion Worship	25 5:00 AI-Anon 8:00 AA (Open)	26	27
28 8:00 Worship 9:00 Fellowship 9:30 Worship 7:00 AA (Closed)	29 5:30 "The Kitchen" Free Meal 8:00 AA (Closed)	30	31 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Staff Meeting			

SPONSORS

December 2008

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www.trinitystpeter.org

Trinity Lutheran Church

511 South Fifth Street
Saint Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit Org.
Bulk Rate
Permit No. 3
St. Peter, MN 56082

Address Service Requested

Trinity Staff

Pastors	Charles Christensen Eric Natwick	Youth & Family Minister	Erika Reckling
Church Secretary	Audrey Hanson	Financial Secretary	Lynn Davey
Organist/Pianist	Judy Maharry	Custodian	Barry Wood
Trinity Choir & Praise Bells Director	Ray Jacobson	Communications Coordinator	Heather Tollefson
Celebration Singers Director	Annette Meeks	Christian Education Coordinator	Lori Hanson
JOY! Director	Nancy Sizer	Missionaries in Africa	Pastor Joyce & Ian Graue

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8am–3pm
Friday 8am–12pm

Contact Information

Phone 507.934.4786
Fax 507.934.4562
Email office@trinitystpeter.org